

funding. In February of this year, Barney Davis, a Tennessee trainer, was convicted of soring, fined \$4,000, and was sentenced to a year in prison. In March, nationally known trainer Jackie L. McConnell and three of his associates were charged with 52 counts of violating the Horse Protection Act. These recent charges, including the first two convictions in two decades under the U.S. Horse Protection Act, have brought increased attention to this horrible abuse.

These indictments and prosecutions are long overdue, and I applaud the U.S. Attorneys and USDA civil servants who have courageously worked to end soring. Yet adequate funding of the Horse Protection Program is critical for the enforcement of this act and for the prevention of this abusive practice. It is imperative that USDA's Horse Protection Program be adequately funded, ensuring the end of this cruel practice. Financial backing must be supported, not hampered, by this Congress.

The American Veterinary Medical Association has condemned soring for over 40 years. I join my fellow veterinarians across America in calling for a stop to this heinous abuse of America's horses. We in Congress need to stand up as well and speak out against this egregious form of animal cruelty. It is time for soring to end.

70TH ANNIVERSARY OF ELLSWORTH AIR FORCE BASE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from South Dakota (Mrs. NOEM) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. NOEM. Today, I rise to mark a major milestone for an important installation in the State of South Dakota. This year is the 70th anniversary of Ellsworth Air Force Base. It is a privilege to stand here today on the House floor and honor the thousands of airmen who have been stationed at Ellsworth. I would like to personally thank every single man and woman who has served our Nation and the people of South Dakota at this base.

Ellsworth has played an important role in this country and in our Nation's military since World War II. The attack on Pearl Harbor sent our country into one of the most destructive wars that the world has ever known. Our country needed a large and immediate force to fight a two-front war—one in the Pacific theater and another one in Europe.

Thousands of young men and women rushed into the military, and in response, our Nation built many new bases to accommodate the growing number of soldiers. In 1942, a small Army base was established near Rapid City, outside Box Elder, South Dakota. Its original purpose was to train the crews of the Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress. Later in the war, the base trained and deployed B-29 Superfortress crews, which were instrumental on the Eastern front.

During World War II, the base was so successful that it was changed to permanent status. Yet, sadly, a tragedy struck. While returning from a training mission, an RB-36 Peacemaker aircraft crashed in Newfoundland. Later that year, President Eisenhower came to South Dakota and dedicated the base, renaming it after Brigadier General Richard Ellsworth, who perished in the crash. Ever since then, the base has kept the name Ellsworth Air Force Base.

Ellsworth continued to prove itself as an enduring asset during the Cold War. In fact, during the first major international event of the Cold War, B-29 bombers from Ellsworth were sent to help in the Berlin Airlift, and as the Cold War progressed, so did the capabilities of Ellsworth. The aircraft at Ellsworth were used as an intimidating deterrent to our potential enemies. The base also became a hub of missile activity, transporting and storing Titan and Minuteman missiles. Without a doubt, Ellsworth was a crucial player in keeping peace during a very uneasy time in our Nation's history.

Today, Ellsworth is the home of the 28th Bomb Wing with the B-1 Lancer, which is a shining example of resourcefulness. The aircraft was originally designed for low altitude nuclear payloads, but as the Cold War ended and as the demand for nuclear capability aircraft declined, the Air Force modified the aircraft for long-range conventional bombing runs. It has been described as the workhorse of operations in Afghanistan. Most recently, B-1s from Ellsworth Air Force Base were used in Operation Odyssey Dawn in Libya. The B-1 has truly become the backbone of our long-range bombing force. In fact, earlier this year, the B-1 completed its 10,000th combat mission. It is an impressive milestone for any piece of weaponry.

More recently, the Air Force selected Ellsworth to be the home of the unmanned MQ-9 Reapers. It is one of only two bases on the ground that has the control capabilities of these high-tech aircraft. It is a testament to the ongoing relevance of Ellsworth as a part of our national defense strategy.

Ellsworth has also become an integral part of South Dakota's economy. In 2010, the base estimated that it supports over 1,500 jobs in western South Dakota, and that's not including the thousands of active airmen and -women. It is also home to the Air Force Financial Services Center. It is, without a doubt, an economic engine that keeps South Dakota thriving and vibrant.

When I reflect on what makes Ellsworth Air Force Base so significant, I think beyond the impressive aircraft and the historical and economic significance that the base has to South Dakota. Instead, I think about the individual airmen, and I believe that the true strength of our Armed Forces lies with them. It doesn't come from the equipment that they use or from the

aircraft that they fly. It is their courage, their resilience, and the bravery of these fine men and women. As great as the B-17s, the B-29s, the B-1s, and the MQ-9 unmanned Reapers are, nothing can compare to the everyday American servicemember.

That's why I want to make sure, as we commemorate the 70th anniversary of Ellsworth Air Force Base, we don't focus only on the national importance the base has played or on the economic impact it has had in South Dakota. Instead, we focus on the individual airmen and on the sacrifices that they make every single day. It is the airman who leaves his family, who protects our country day in and day out and who responds to the call of duty. Each airman plays one small part in a larger operation. Whether they are pilots, navigators, engineers, munitions personnel, or air traffic controllers, each one plays an important role.

I thank all of the airmen and -women who came to Ellsworth and who did their duty to the best of their ability. They've done so for 70 years and have done an incredible job.

I would also like to commend the families of the airmen, past and present. I have heard from many of the military personnel and their families, and I am always inspired by their selfless commitment to our country. Every family member of our servicemen and -women make sacrifices. God bless them for staying strong and for providing a strong support system for our servicemembers who are stationed at Ellsworth and at bases across the country.

Again, thank you, Madam Speaker, for allowing me to show my deep respect and appreciation for everyone at Ellsworth for its 70 years of outstanding service to our country. May God bless all who serve at Ellsworth.

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TERRITORIAL TANF EQUITY ACT OF 2012

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. PIERLUISI) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PIERLUISI. Madam Speaker, today I'm introducing legislation to provide equitable treatment to Puerto Rico and other U.S. territories under the TANF program, which provides cash payments to needy families with children.

Currently the territories are not eligible for supplemental grants, contingency funds, and child care funds under TANF. Moreover, Federal law imposes an annual cap on the overall funding that each of the territories can receive under a variety of public assistance programs, including TANF. My legislation removes this funding cap and makes the territories eligible for TANF grants that they do not presently receive.

Puerto Rico is treated unfairly under Federal programs designed to help our